

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 016257

12

ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 SS-20 INR-10 RSC-01 CG-00 /047 R

DRAFTED BY EA/P:STAFF:BCL

APPROVED BY EA/P:ARSEN

----- 088359

R 242255Z JAN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANE

JEC PARIS 1031/1032/1033

USSAG NAKHON PHANOM

CINCPAC

COGARD

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

UNCLAS STATE 016257

COGARD FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: JANUARY 24 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. US PROMISES EXERT EVERY EFFORT TO LOCATE GERALD KOSH, MISSING IN PARACELS (UPI, BALTO NA 1/23; PHINQ). DOD SPOKESMAN DECLINES TO ELABORATE ON KO H'S DUTIES IN SVN EXCEPT TO SAY HE IS DAO CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE ASSIGNED TO AMCONGEN DA NANG (NYT). SHIPLER(NYT) FROM SAIGON QUOTES EMBASSY SPOKESMAN THAT KOSH IS NOT ADVISER BUT "LIAISON MAN" TO OBSERVE USE OF EQUIPMENT, PERFORMANCE AND EFFICIENCY OF SVN ARMED FORCES.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 016257

SPOKESMAN SAYS THAT KOSH, AN EXGREEN BERET CAPTAIN,

ACCOMPANIED GVN PATROL CRAFT TO PARACELS AT INVITATION OF LOCAL SVN NAVAL COMMANDER. SHIP ENGAGED CHINESE NAVAL FORCE AND KOSH WAS PUT ASHORE ON PATTLE IS. FOR HIS SAFETY. NEXT MORNING CHINESE MIGS AND TROOPS ATTACKED ISLANDS AND KOSH NOT HEARD FROM SINCE. CHINESE REPORT ABOUT 100 PRISONERS TAKEN ON PATTLE SAYS DAO HAS "APPARENTLY LESS THAN A DOZEN" LIAISON MEN WHO REPORT TO PENTAGON, BUT OFFICIALS VAGUE ON DETAILS OF KOSH'S JOB AND SAY THEY ARE UNCLEAR ON PRECISELY WHAT HE AND OTHER LIAISON MEN ARE SUPPOSED TO OBSERVE AND WHAT THEIR REPORTS CONTAIN. UNANSWERED

QUESTION IS WHETHER LIAISON MEN EVALUATE STRATEGY AND TACTICS, ANALYZE COMBAT READINESS AND CRITICIZE INFO WOULD BE USEFUL, BUT EMBASSY SPOKESMAN DENIES IT CONSTITUTES INDIRECT ADVICE. SHIPLER ADDS THAT VC RECENTLY CHARGED THAT US CIVILIANS ARE GIVING MILITARY ADVICE, BUT US DENIES ACCUSATION. ASKED WHETHER LIAISON MEN UNDER STANDING ORDERS TO AVOID GIVING MILITARY ADVICE EVEN WHEN ASKED, EMBASSY SPOKESMAN REPLIED, "THEY KNOW THEY'RE NOT ADVISERS, THEY'RE NOT ADVISING ANYONE. THEY'RE VERY WELL AWARE OF THAT".

2. PHINQ FEATURES INTERVIEW WITH KOSH'S PARENTS (IN LAFAYETTE HILL, PA.), GIVES SHORT BIOGRAPHY OF KOSH AND DESCRIPTION OF PARACELS BATTLE. KOSH'S FATHER WAITING FOR NEWS, WATCHING TV AND LISTENING TO EVERY RADIO NEWS BROADCAST AFTER BEING INFORMED TUESDAY THAT SON MIA. ELDER KOSH SAYS WIFE UPSET "LIKE ANY OTHER MOTHER" AND HE IS TRYING TO CALM HER DOWN. LAST LETTER FROM KOSH WAS WRITTEN ON CHRISTMAS EVE, BUT DID NOT MENTION GOING OUT WITH SVN NAVY.

3. TWO DIE OF 23 SVN CREW MEMBERS PICKED UP BY DUTCH TANKER AFTER THEIR SHIP SUNK BY CHINESE IN PARACELS (WSJ). SAIGON COMMAND QUOTES SURVIVORS THAT SKIPPER AND MANY CREWMEN WENT DOWN WITH SHIP (BALTO NA 1/23).

4. IN AFP CF ANNIVERSARY INTERVIEW IN HANOI, DRV UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 016257

FOMMIN CHARGES SVN, WITH US SUPPORT, IS GETTING READY FOR STEPPED-UP MILITARY OPERATION. FONMIN REFERS TO THIEU'S "HYSTERICAL CALLS FOR WAR, FOR SABOTAGING THE PARIS AGREEMENT, AS WELL AS AMERICAN THREATS IN SUPPORT." QUESTION CONCERNING POSSIBLE MAJOR COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE BRINGS REPLY THAT "SLANDEROUS ALLEGATIONS" ARE MADE TO JUSTIFY "WAR HYSTERIA" TO PREPARE GROUND FOR "NEW ADVENTURES" AND MORE C-F VIOLATIONS. FONMIN

ACCUSES US OF MAINTAINING AND REINFORCING MILITARY ADVISERS "NOW CAMOUFLAGED AS CIVILIAN PERSONNEL." COMMUNIST PRIORITIES ARE "SAFEGUARDING" PEACE; DRESSING "WOUNDS OF WAR" AND BUILDING SOCIALISM IN NORTH; COMPLETION OF "NATURAL AND DEMOCRATIC TASKS" IN SOUTH, AND MOVEMENT TOWARD "PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION" (NYT, PARIS).

5. FANK COMMAND SAYS REBELS CLEARED FROM NW OF PP AFTER 19-DAY BATTLE IN WHICH 301 COMMUNISTS KIA AND 27 CAPTURED WITH 30 FANK KIA AND 200 WIA. INTELLIGENCE SOURCES REPORT REBELS SWITCHING ATTACK TO CITY'S SOUTHERN FLANK WHERE GUERRILLA FORCES HAD BUILT UP (REUTER, NYT; CSM). FIGHTING RAGES ACROSS RIVER EAST OF PP WHERE REBELS AND FANK TRADE VILLAGES IN SEE-SAW BATTLE (UPI, NYDN). THREE 122-MM ROCKETS HIT POCHENTONG (BALTO N-A 1/23).

JAPAN

6. BANK OF JAPAN REPORTED SALE OF ABOUT 700 MILLION DOLS FROM ITS RAPIDLY DWINDLING FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES TO MAINTAIN PRICE OF YEN RECEIVES WIDE PRESS ATTENTION (UPI, WP; JOC, WELLS; NYT, FARNSWORTH; CHITRIB; WSJ).

SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN PROPOSE JAPANESE AUTO FIRMS ESTABLISH PLANTS IN THEIR COUNTRIES TO MEET GROWING DEMAND FUELED BY REVENUES FROM OIL SALES, TOKYO INDUSTRY SOURCES REPORT (WP).

7. NYT'S WEAVER REPORTS CHIEF JUSTICE BURGER AND WIFE WILL FLY TO TOKYO FOR ONE-WEEK JAPAN TOUR AT GOJ EXPENSE. COST TO GOJ LIKELY TO BE SEVERAL THOUSAND UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 016257

DOLS. WEAVER REPORTS SOME SOURCES FEEL PROPOSED TRIP LIKELY TO RAISE EYEBROWS WITHIN LEGAL PROFESSION ABOUT PROPRIETY OF CHIEF JUSTICE ACCEPTING EXPENSIVE INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AS GUEST OF FOREIGN GOVT., EVEN THOUGH TRIP WOULD NOT APPEAR TO CONSTITUTE VIOLATION OF JUDICIAL ETHICS.

CHINA

8. USSR ANNOUNCES EXPULSION OF PRC DIPLOMAT FOR ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN ESPIONAGE INFO. PRC CONTENTS FIVE RUSSIANS EXPELLED AS SPIES SATURDAY HAD BEEN CAUGHT IN ACT OF PASSING INSTRUCTIONS TO CHINESE ACCOMPLICES WHO CONFESSED. CHINESE CAPTURE CAPER ON FILM. (AP, NYDN; UPI, PHINQ; WP; WSJ; NYT, STEWART).

INDONESIA

9. GOI ANNOUNCES SERIES OF TOUGH MEASURES DESIGNED CURTAIL ASSETS OF RESIDENT CHINESE BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND ELIMINATE GOVT. CORRUPTION. ALL FUTURE FOREIGN INVESTMENTS MUST BE IN JOINT ENTERPRISES WITH INDONESIAN BUSINESSMEN, WITH INDO PARTNER HOLDING AT LEAST PER CENT OF SHARES. IN ANTI-CORRUPTION MEASURES, GOI OFFICIALS PROHIBITED FROM MAKING GIFTS OF GOVT. FUNDS; OFFICIALS AND WIVES MAY NO LONGER CONDUCT BUSINESS FOR PERSONAL BENEFIT ON THE SIDE; AND SUFFERING CIVIL SERVANTS BANNED FROM NIGHT CLUBS, STEAMBATHS, MASSAGE PARLORS AND CASINOS (UPI, NYT).

PHILIPPINES

10. GOP SIGNS 6.5 MILLION DOLLAR CONTRACT FOR OFFSHORE OIL EXPLORATION BY GROUP OF US AND FILIPINO INVESTORS (UPI, NYDN).

AUSTRALIA

E E E E E E E

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE016257
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: STAFF:BCL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740117/aaaaaqaw.tel
Line Count: 187
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 25 FEB 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <25 FEB 2002 by chappeld, INA>; RELEASED <25 FEB 2002 by chappeld>; APPROVED <25-Nov-2002 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JANUARY 24 EA PRESS SUMMARY INDOCHINA
TAGS: PFOR, XC, US
To: SAIGON
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005